

# Some 'Heavenly' intervention

**L**ongstanding NSWROA member, Reg Kemister was recently rewarded with this most elusive success when Heavens Above saluted in the Group 1 ATC Coolmore Classic in March 2017. Could it be that some 'Heavenly' intervention was involved?

To say it was a great thrill would of course be a classic understatement with Reg commenting that trainer Tim Martin was always confident in this mare.

Heavens Above was bred by Reg from a mating of the ill-fated stallion Street Cry (Ire) with Reggie (NZ) and was offered for sale at the 2013 Inglis Australian Easter Yearling Sale. As she didn't reach her reserve, she was retained by Reg to race and the rest is, of course, history.

Heavens Above has faced the starter 22 times for 5 wins (including a Group 1 and two Group 3 successes), 5 second placings (including a Group 1 and a Group 3) and 4 third placings (including one at Group 3 level) and has collected just shy of \$1 million in prizemoney.

So how did it all start for Reg? As is the case with a vast majority of racing participants, it started from childhood.

Reg has been around horses, sheep and cattle from day one; his maternal grandparents, the Tearle family, were orchardists at Kentucky in NSW which is halfway between Tamworth and Armidale and they had all the above animals.

His Grandfather and Uncles were all mad keen racehorse followers so it was no great surprise that Reg would be as well.

The person who encouraged his first purchase was a great friend, the late Jack Gardiner, who Reg said was one of those really nice guys who would do anything to help you.

As his interest in the industry grew, Reg decided that breeding to sell was the right path for him. He retains an occasional filly for replacement breeding

IT WOULD BE FAIR TO SAY THAT WAITING ALMOST 25 YEARS FOR YOUR FIRST GROUP 1 WINNER WOULD BE AN INDICATION THAT YOU'RE A TRUE DEVOTEE TO THIS WONDERFUL INDUSTRY OF OURS

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PICTURES: **BRADLEY PHOTOGRAPHERS**

Group 3 winner), Hunter Jack (multiple Country Cups winner), Pindan Pearl (multiple City winner), Heavens Above and Bound for Earth (a Group 2 winner).

At present there are four mares in his broodmare band:-

- Tails Wins – the dam of Super One and Blue Blazers who is presently in foal to I Am Invincible;
- Bulla Borghese – Victorian Oaks winner whose yearlings have sold to \$825,000 and is the dam of Kara's Hope who is presently being broken in but showing great promise;
- Reggie (NZ) – dam of Pindan Pearl, Heavens Above and Thank Heavens and who is presently in foal to Hinchinbrook, and
- Limbo Dawn – dam of Limbo Soul the very impressive first start winner who is presently in foal to I Am Invincible.

He currently has three horses racing:

but all the rest are sold.

Some of the horses he has bred include Sasa (Group 1 placed), Monton (multiple Group 2 and Listed Race winner), Super One (Group 3 winner and dual Listed Race winner in Singapore), Court Command (Group 2 and multiple



Heavens Above takes out the 2017 Group 1 Coolmore Classic at Rosehill Gardens

Heavens Above, Hunter Jack and Limbo Soul and he has bred all of them.

And waiting in the wings are Thank Heavens (Sebring-Reggie (NZ)) a half-sister to Heavens Above and Pindan Pearl, Kara's Hope (I Am Invincible-Bulla Borghese), Blue Blazers (I Am Invincible-Tails Wins) a half-sister to Super One and an unnamed filly (Fighting Sun-Multiple Wins) also from the family of Super One.

Tim Martin is the number one trainer for Reg and they also have a 'family history'. Tim's uncle, Ron Martin and Reg's mother went to primary school together and Ron also worked casually for Reg's grandparents especially around shearing time and was a great horseman.

Reg commented that numerous people have been helpful in their advice and assistance to him over the years. However, special thanks are due to both Arthur Inglis from Inglis, and Harry Mitchell from Yarraman Park Stud, both of whom have been very good to him.

Reg also sends a big thank you to the buyers who have purchased his yearlings, as without them you are in trouble.

***When asked what had been his most memorable moment on a racecourse Reg commented: "I have had numerous enjoyable days both as an owner and spectator."***

"Winning the Golden Rose with Court Command (2006) and recently the Coolmore Classic with Heavens Above were special.

"However, Sasa – who came second in the Champagne Stakes in 2010 – is one I won't forget. We lost the race by an inch or two, then protested and after an eternity, lost that as well. Oh well, second is better than third so we moved on – that's racing!"

And his advice to someone contemplating entering into the



Limbo Soul – an impressive first start winner at Rosehill

ownership ranks: "Go for it! There are numerous levels of entry and cost and firms like Inglis are only too pleased to assist with advice.

"There are also some good syndicators; whilst prizemoney is very good the friendships you make are even better.

To those of you who are not owners as yet, why not give it a go! To those owners who are not as yet members of the Association, why not join this winning team and become a member of

the NSW Racehorse Owners Association (NSWROA).

For further information, simply visit our website [www.nswroa.com.au](http://www.nswroa.com.au) or telephone the NSWROA office on (02) 9299 4299. **RNSW**